

# Sacramento County Operations Chiefs

## Strike Team Recommendations

In February, 2008, the Sacramento County Operations Chiefs created an ad-hoc committee to formulate recommendations regarding a variety of strike team response issues. Strike team leaders from throughout Sacramento County met, and forwarded recommendations on a variety of issues to the County Operations Chiefs at their April 17, 2008 meeting. The following is a summation of these recommendations after being analyzed by the Operations Chiefs.

### Staffing:

At their April 17, 2008 meeting, the Sacramento County Fire Chiefs have agreed to provide 4 person staffing on all engine strike team responses. The exception to this would be initial attack. This is in direct alignment of the committee's recommendation.

### Radios:

Each person on a company is to be provided with an appropriate radio (E.g. Bendix King) and extra batteries. This becomes more problematic with rainbow strike teams, but each agency agreed to formulate procedures to accomplish this goal. This procedure is to include extended assignments that began as initial attack.

Additional batteries are to be provided as well, as the communications unit may not be functional early in an incident.

### Food and Water:

Each company should have sufficient food (e.g. meal ready to eat) and water to be self-sufficient for 24-36 hours. A recommendation is two (2) m.r.e.'s and one (1) gallon of water per person per day.

Strike team leaders are encouraged to carry an extra supply of m.r.e.'s and water.

### Response:

Feeding of personnel en-route to and returning from an incident is the responsibility of the employee (unless employing agency has another agreement).

Once on the incident and in close proximity to incident support, personnel will be fed by the incident.

If the crews are housed many miles from base, and the strike team leaders does not agree with crews driving back to base for meals, meals will be at the expense of the employee.

Example: A strike team is housed at a hotel over an hour drive from base, and the strike team is off-shift for 24 hours. Driving back to base for lunch and dinner may not be efficient / effective.

Fueling: Agencies having limited fueling options, make it very difficult for the strike team to move around the state. Perhaps a Cal-Card or pre-paid visa card would allow for fuel specific purchases, and would ease the burden of having to find a "Shell" station for engine X and a "Chevron" for engine Y etc.

One idea presented was to create an agreement among Sacramento County Fire Chief's to allow the strike team leader to procure fuel when necessary, with the understanding there will be a timely re-imbursement from the respective agency. This will be taken to the County Chief's for consideration.

Note: This does not relieve agencies from improving flexibility for fueling their engines, as the strike team leader may not have the ability to cover the fuel costs for multiple engines.

#### Housing:

The strike team leader and the incident will attempt to provide environmentally controlled housing. However, there are times in which the incident refuses or has not fully expanded that component of the incident command system.

In those circumstances where environmentally controlled housing is imperative (e.g. inclement weather), the strike team leader will brief the XSA operational area coordinator and discuss options. This discussion may lead to a conference call with the Operations Chief to discuss home agencies picking up the costs of housing.

#### Returning Travel:

Strike team leaders are to follow federal travel rules.

Companies are to have at least two "drivers". These personnel do not need to be apparatus operator qualified, just capable of driving to allow the engineer to rest.

#### Communication with XSA:

Strike team leaders are to brief the XSA operational area coordinator and the fire dispatch supervisor (S1) daily. This notification is in addition to any requirement of OES.

Note: This communication may be intermittent due to cell phone access.

#### Uniforms:

All personnel are to take at least one complete class B uniform.

#### Out-of-base, off-shift:

When on the premises of an out-of-base housing facility (hotel), personnel are to wear either: 1) class B uniform; or 2) department approved work-out attire. Appropriate civilian swimming clothing is acceptable if swimming.

Personnel are to be in class B uniform when off-site of an out-of-base housing facility e.g. going across the street to dinner from the hotel, or going to the store etc.

#### Off-Shift Activities:

Personnel are reminded that we are a “portal to portal” agency, and we are never off-duty. We may be off-shift in base, or off-shift at a remote housing facility, but we are not off-duty.

Personnel may engage in routine activities that are otherwise permitted on-duty in their home departments. Example: If you are allowed to play basketball at your home duty station, then this would be allowed at an off-site housing facility.

Crews shall maintain communication with the strike team leader at all times. This method of communication will be determined on a case by case basis.

#### Minimum Personal Protective Clothing:

Wildland p.p.e. is construed as double layer. No single layer pants (e.g. green or brown) meet any XSA agency standard.

Type I engines – personnel should take both structural and wildland p.p.e.

Type III engines – personnel are to take structural p.p.e. if directed by their employing agency.

Each firefighter shall be provided with appropriate safety foot wear, and fire shelter.

P.P.E. Continued:

Advise personnel to be prepared for cold weather, even during summer months.  
E.g. warm sleeping bag, knit hat, thermal clothing, rain gear, etc.


Red Cards:

Agencies are strongly encouraged to provide their personnel with red-cards.

Incident Response Pocket Guides:

Agencies are strongly encouraged to provide each person a fire line handbook.  
Safety officers routinely inspect that each person has this yellow guide on their person when assigned.

The County Ops Chiefs approve of this standard and request the approval of the County Fire Chiefs.

  
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Geoff Miller  
Chair County Operations Chiefs

1 June 2008  
Date

# Signature Page

The undersigned Fire Chief's approve of the attached document and will work within their individual agencies to meet as many of these requirements as possible. We also agree that our personnel when assigned to Strike Teams will follow the rules outlined.

Date June 12, 2008

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Steve Foster  
Cosumnes Fire District

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Dan Haverty  
Folsom Fire Department

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Ray Jones  
Sacramento Fire Department

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Don Mette  
Sacramento Metropolitan Fire Dist.

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